

## PEMBERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# Medical Officer's Annual Report.

FEBRUARY, 1895.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

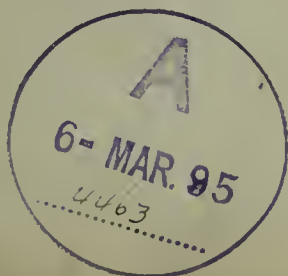
I beg to present my 21st Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1894, required to be made by me in accordance with the official instructions of the Local Government Board, including Tables A and B and Tables A, B, and C, as required by the Lancashire County Council. There is also a Table of the Rainfall taken at the Waterworks at Bispham, and the cases of sickness notified during the year are tabulated and appended.

The death-rate per 1,000 for the year is 19·2, as compared with 20·8, the average for the ten preceding years; and the birth-rate is 38·7, low, as compared with 43·5, for a similar period.

The births numbered 771 for the year, as compared with 849, 814, 844, 749, 816, 733, 744, 647, 649, and 648 for the ten preceding years; of this number 413 were born during the first half and 358 during the second half of the year, 417 were males and 354 females. During the first quarter, 117 males and 90 females; during the second, 114 and 92; during the third, 76 and 83; during the fourth, 110 and 89. The greatest number born in any one month being 88 in January; the smallest number, 43 in August. The births exceeded the deaths by 387.

The total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages is 384, as compared with 518, 372, 366, 398, 351, 335, 329, 350, 344, and 380 for the ten preceding years; of the 384 deaths, 203 were males and 181 females. During the first half of the year, 105 males and 98 females for each quarter; during the second, 98 and 83 for each quarter. No deaths were returned from Small-pox, Diphtheria, Membraneous Croup, Typhus, Relapsing or Puerperal Fevers, Cholera, or Ague.

*The deaths under 2 years numbered 168.*





The diseases prevalent during the year were Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping-cough, and Enteric Fever. A few cases of Typhus were notified in September from Worsley Mesnes, all young children; and two men, living at Lamberhead Green, who worked in the same colliery along with other men from Wigan, recovered from the same fever, which did not spread in either of their houses.

Scarlet Fever was distributed over the district in January, at Marsh Green in February, very few cases in March, located chiefly at Newtown in April and October and at Worsley Mesnes in July and August. There were no deaths in May, July, August, November, and December; five cases recovered after removal to Hospital.

Measles at Lamberhead Green and Newtown caused three deaths in January and February, one at Goose Green in April, one at Newtown in May, one at Poolstock Lane in July, the remainder of the year was free.

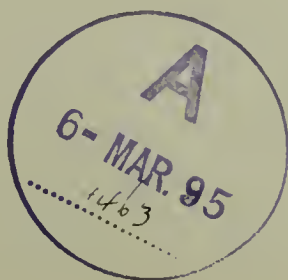
Whooping-cough spread over the district causing twelve deaths; six months, from May to November, being free. It was more severe at Goose Green in November and December; all under five years of age.

Enteric Fever has remained with us during the whole year, clinging closely to certain streets in Newtown, spreading almost from door to door; the deaths number eleven, all above five years of age. Twelve were treated in Hospital, of whom ten recovered; one after Peritonitis, probably caused by perforation of the bowels.

It is worthy of note that at many of the houses poultry are kept in close confined back yards. For my own part I have always been suspicious of drinking-water contaminated with sewage, but have not been able to trace anything of the kind in these cases.

The year has been remarkably free from Diarrhœa, thirteen deaths, all in young children, occurring during the months of May, June, August, September, and October. A rather large number of deaths took place from Heart Disease and Phthisis, the latter for the most part in the lower-lying portions of the district. Bronchitis and Pneumonia throughout the year caused one-fifth of the total number of deaths, one half being under five years of age.

As the outcome of frequent and systematic inspection of the district there was noticed and work done as follows:—





*1st Quarter.*

Houses requiring limewashing at Goose Green, Marsh Green, and Thwaites Delf. Notices were served to carry out the work and also to abate overcrowding at Billinge Road and Newtown, which were complied with.

Dilapidated and wet privies and ashpits at Spring Bank, Smithy Brook, Marsh Green, Goose Green, and Newtown. The defects were made good on service of notices.

Nuisances from defective urinals at Newtown and Lamberhead Green. Notices were served and the nuisances complained of remedied.

A number of stopped drains were put in order after communicating with the owners.

*2nd Quarter.*

Defective urinals at Newtown and Lamberhead Green.

Overcrowded dwelling-houses at Little Lane, Thwaites Delf, and Newtown. It was necessary to take legal proceedings in the latter case before the nuisance was abated.

Houses requiring limewashing at Newtown, Pemberton Valley, Lamberhead Green, Worsley Mesnes, Park Lane, Goose Green, and Thwaites Delf.

Dilapidated privies and ashpits at Lamberhead Green, Kitt Green, Marsh Green, Newtown, and Delf Houses.

A number of stopped drains in different parts of the district, and a flooded cellar at Worsley Mesnes caused by an obstruction in a branch sewer.

Smoke nuisances from bakehouse chimneys at Worsley Mesnes and Enfield Street.

*3rd Quarter.*

Dilapidated ashpits at Newtown, Rose Hill, and Highfield.

Houses requiring limewashing at Newtown, Worsley Mesnes, and Goose Green.

Overcrowded dwelling-house at Newtown.

House drains at Newtown and cellar drains at Lamberhead Green unsatisfactory.







Insanitary closets at several schools.

A number of partial stoppages in house drains in different parts of the district, which were afterwards made good.

Conversion of house and shop in three separate dwellings at Highfield, in contravention of bye-laws, but premises subsequently put into original condition after serving notice on owner.

*4th Quarter.*

Defective drains at Newtown and a few minor stoppages of house drains at various properties were put in order after communicating with owners.

Houses requiring limewashing at May Mill and Newtown. Notices were served, after which the work was carried out.

Dilapidated privies and ashpits at Park Lane and Newtown, for which notices were served.

Smoke nuisances from bakehouse and brewery chimneys, for the abatement of which notices were served. Several of these are at present pending.

Accumulation of surface water in Warrington Road removed by drainage.

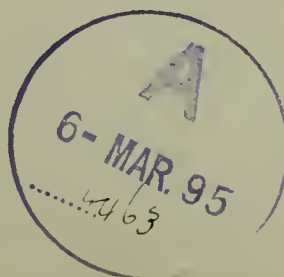
Cellar at Marsh Green requiring reflagging and other repairs for prevention of surface water flowing into same.

During the year the house gully-traps were cleaned out by the Council's own men and disinfectants used in all cases. Fewer stopped drains were the result of this work.

At the end of the third quarter the Council undertook the emptying and cleansing of the ashpits in the Newtown and Marsh Green sub-districts, making fully three-fourths of the whole district emptied by their own men, the rest being done by contract.

The number emptied during 1894 was 4,291, against 3,961 for 1893 and 3,276 for 1892.

During the year 57 privies and 26 ashpits have been reconstructed and otherwise repaired and rendered dry.







A very considerable number of chaff beds were burnt at the sewage works, and bedding, clothing, &c., from infected houses removed and disinfected in the gas stove at the Hospital, and the houses were subsequently fumigated.

The firing of house chimneys became a source of trouble and annoyance, and the Council issued notices warning householders against this practice, and at the same time gave notice that they would undertake to provide a sweep if a few days' notice was given. Two summonses have been taken out for allowing chimneys to get on fire since the notices were issued.

The dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, and slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

Eighty-three new houses have been built during the year.

Disinfectants were supplied during the year.

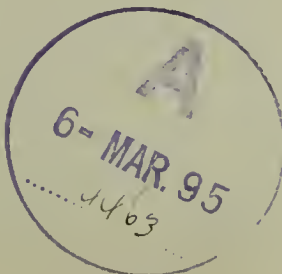
The following is a statement of the Rainfall at the Council's Waterworks during each month of the year:—

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| January .....   | 2·37 |
| February .....  | 4·87 |
| March.....      | 2·62 |
| April .....     | 1·30 |
| May .....       | 2·82 |
| June .....      | 2·39 |
| July .....      | 3·66 |
| August .....    | 5·14 |
| September ..... | 1·05 |
| October .....   | 4·40 |
| November .....  | 3·19 |
| December .....  | 3·12 |

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36·93

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The number of cases notified under the Infectious Diseases Act during the year classified according to diseases, is as follows:—

|               | Enteric<br>Fever. | Scarlet<br>Fever. | Continued<br>Fever. | Puerperal<br>Fever. | Membranous<br>Croup. | Diphtheria. | Erysipelas. | Typhus<br>Fever. | TOTAL. |       |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--------|-------|
| January ..... | 12                | 29                | 2                   | —                   | —                    | 2           | 6           | —                | 51     | } 118 |
| February ...  | 15                | 21                | 3                   | —                   | —                    | 1           | 3           | 1                | 44     |       |
| March .....   | 9                 | 8                 | —                   | —                   | —                    | —           | 6           | —                | 23     |       |
| April .....   | 7                 | 22                | —                   | 1                   | —                    | 1           | 3           | —                | 34     | } 83  |
| May .....     | 1                 | 21                | —                   | —                   | —                    | 1           | 1           | —                | 24     |       |
| June .....    | 1                 | 21                | 1                   | —                   | —                    | 1           | 1           | —                | 25     |       |
| July .....    | 5                 | 18                | —                   | 2                   | —                    | —           | 2           | —                | 27     | } 85  |
| August .....  | 9                 | 22                | 1                   | —                   | —                    | —           | 1           | —                | 33     |       |
| September ... | 6                 | 13                | —                   | —                   | —                    | —           | 4           | 2                | 25     |       |
| October ..... | 7                 | 20                | —                   | —                   | —                    | —           | 1           | 2                | 30     | } 83  |
| November ...  | 8                 | 18                | 3                   | —                   | 1                    | —           | 1           | 1                | 22     |       |
| December ...  | 12                | 14                | —                   | —                   | 1                    | —           | 3           | 1                | 31     |       |

|    |     |    |   |   |   |    |   |     |
|----|-----|----|---|---|---|----|---|-----|
| 92 | 227 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 32 | 7 | 369 |
|----|-----|----|---|---|---|----|---|-----|

*R. Martley.*

